GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4802
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
JAJOBA PLANT
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil and derivatives of the plant known as `Jajoba` has found to be effective for use in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals agent for industrial use, lubricants, electrical insulators etc;

(b) if so, whether any laboratory tests have been conducted to find out that this oil can be used alternative fuel;

(c) if so, the steps being taken to increase the productivity by cultivating more areas; and

(d) the incentives given to the State Governments for encouraging the cultivation of this plant?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. `Jojoba` seed oil can be used in lubricants, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

(b) Laboratory tests have shown that `Jojoba` oil can be used as replacement for lubricants. This oil is not an alternative fuel but it is very good lubricant even for high-pressure engines.

(c) Association of Rajasthan Jajoba Plantation and Research Project established in 1995 is taking care of Jajoba plantations by way of supplying good planting material and purchase of the produce. Drip irrigation was found quite effective for enhancing the productivity.

(d) This plant is suited to desert ecosystem. With the active support of Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur (Rajasthan), Agriculture Department of Rajasthan Government initiated jojoba plantation during 1992. It is estimated that about 300 ha area is under Jojoba plantation in the country. Government of Rajasthan is providing 50 percent subsidy on purchase of seedlings and seeds of Jojoba to the growers. Plant survival was very poor under rainfed conditions of Andhra Pradesh and adjoining states.